



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1930

VOL. 64

June 2012

NO. 10

It's Hamfest Time!

In just a few short weeks we will be opening the newest chapter in the history of the Rochester Hamfest. If you haven't already heard that we're moving to the Gordon Field House at RIT, then it's time to crawl out from under that rock.

It's shaping up to be an exciting event. ALL commercial exhibitor spaces are **SOLD OUT** and indoor flea market spaces are selling quickly! Some vendors are taking 10 at a time.

RaRa members get free admission. If you need tickets for friends or family, or if you're not a current member and want to get your tickets in advance visit: www.RochesterHamfest.com/Hamfest-Registration.htm Members and advance ticket holders can use the express entry lanes.

RaRa members also get one free flea market space. But you will need to rent a table, or bring your own. Additional spaces and tables can be reserved at: www.RochesterHamfest.com/Hamfest-Registration.htm

Please note:

All table rentals must be done online before June 10th 2012!

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The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RaRa

The best part about being the President is sharing good news. At our May meeting the Board of Directors adopted a new dues rate for students... **FREE!** Effective immediately, students, licensed or unlicensed, can join RaRa and receive the ever growing list of benefits of membership at no cost! We're very serious about cultivating and supporting young hams. Far too often they are abandoned, and even shunned, by older hams. Yes it is true! We feel that the first step is to remove any obstacles that could impede a student from joining us; then we must make them feel welcome and support their needs. Over these next few months you'll learn about additional efforts and programs we are developing to support this objective.

On that note: I'm also thrilled to announce that Dave Snyder, KC2REO, has accepted appointment to the BoD for the remainder of this term. We're hopeful that Dave will choose to run for election to the BoD in the fall. Dave is a recent graduate of RIT and served as the RIT ARC President. Now, if that sounds vaguely familiar give yourself two points for paying attention; because I mentioned it recently when I announced that Dave was assuming the position of our Public Service Coordinator. Dave brings to the board the greatly needed perspective and insight of today's "twenty-something" ham. We plan on exploiting (I mean employing) him in our efforts to cultivate, embrace, and mentor young amateurs.

For the 600 or so of you who were not at the May 4th general meeting: Nominations for the BoD are open to all Full (Licensed) members. If you would like to help implement, and perpetuate, the revolutionary changes evolving here at RaRa please contact any club officer and let them know you're interested (<http://rochesterhamfest.org/Officers.htm>).

A recurring topic that keeps coming to the BoD is the day and time of the general membership meetings. Many people have voiced concerns about meeting on Fridays for a number of reasons including the preference to spend their Fridays in other social circles. So with the power of the internet, we want to hear from you. All of you! Tell the BoD what night of the week **YOU** prefer to have a RaRa meeting? And... What time would you like to have the meeting start?

Take a moment and click [HERE](#) to take our two-question survey.

See you at the Hamfest!

73 and happy DXing.
Frank
WB2PYD



Rochester Hamfest and Technology Expo Features:

- Weatherproof! – 60,000 square feet of air conditioned indoor flea market & vendors
- Tailgating on pavement
- Close to the Thruway with an on-site hotel
- Indoor setup 6-9 am
- Tailgate setup 6:00 am
- Doors open at 9 am!

Visit the website
(www.RochesterHamfest.com) to
get your tickets now!

**Mark your calendars:
Saturday June 30th!**

**FREE Admission for
RaRa Members!**

Not a member? [Join today!](#)



Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
Editor@RochesterHam.org

Welcome to the June issue of the *RARA Rag*. We're headed into our second year of providing you with a newsletter during the summer months. While these may be a bit smaller than our "prime season" editions, we hope to keep the spark alive during the summer, and invite you to send along any news of interest to area hams. Got a favorite project you're working on? We'd like to know about that, too. This is *your* newsletter.

We are nearly down to the wire for the 89th annual Rochester Hamfest, this year to be held at RIT on Saturday, June 30th. I hope to see many of you there! You will find me working much of the time at or near the RARA HQ table. One exciting aspect to this year's event is a **"Last Chance Auction"** to be held at **2 PM**. For sellers who don't want to carry home their goods, or buyers who missed a chance at something earlier, the auction is the place to be! Our auctioneers for this event will be Lynn Bisha, W2BSN, and Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC.

To enter something in the auction, you simply fill out a ticket that will be provided at the Auction Registration Table earlier in the day. The ticket tells us what the item is, its condition, and your starting bid price. Just as with the November RARA auction, 10% of the proceeds will be payable to RARA by the seller, to help support club initiatives.

Speaking of the Hamfest, don't forget to check out the **13 Colonies special event** managed by Ken Villone, KU2US. Ken will be operating 1 to 2 hours in the parking lot on 2-meter FM simplex (146.460) starting at 10 AM. A special event QSL card will be available at Ken's hamfest display inside, when he returns to the building. The callsign for the event will be K2A/KU2US. Give it a try!

Just as this issue was headed to press, we received word of the passing of Bob Moore, N4USB (ex-N2USB). Bob was a past president in RARA and involved in many club programs. He was a mentor to several amateurs in the Rochester area. Is there someone who would write an article about Bob's contributions for the next *RARA Rag*?

73, and best DX

Calendar of Events

- June 6** RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Engineering Hall, Room 2110
- June 30** RaRa Hamfest
RIT - Gordon Field House

Silent Key

Robert A. Moore
N4USB (ex-N2USB)
May 25, 2012

Past president of RARA and a charter member of the RARA Radio Coaches program.

Taking Stock in Your Club

Gary Skuse KA1NJL

As I am completing my first year on the RARA Board of Directors I decided to take a step back and really look at RARA, the club I have been a member of for more than 25 years. In many things I do in life it is easy to take things for granted and lose sight of how good I really have it. For example, I am fortunate to have a wife and kids that profoundly enhance the quality of my life but all too often I take them for granted. Among other things, and very importantly, they are incredibly understanding and tolerant of my interests in and enthusiasm for amateur radio.

The same can be said of RARA; it is easy to take everything the club provides us for granted. There are many good amateur radio clubs around the world but have you really thought about how great ours is? We have approximately 600 members who collectively have interests that span the breadth of radio communications. We have members who are active in public service, scouting, emergency preparedness, moon bounce, contesting (HF, V/UHF and beyond), digital communications on HF, V/UHF, microwave and light, software defined radio, slow scan TV, fast scan TV (having seen a great many hams face-to-face I still don't understand this one), CW, IRLP, APRS, antique radios, fox hunting and just about any aspect of the hobby you can imagine. If you need help learning about an aspect of the hobby that is new to you, just ask. Someone will certainly step up to help out. There are even a few local hams who have combined their ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit to start radio-related businesses.

With regard to operating, for those who do not or cannot operate from home, we will soon have a remotely accessible club station. Really. Have you attended a Field Day event in the past few years? The amount of effort local hams put into Field Day, keeping in mind that it is practice for a time when we may be called upon to provide communications in the event of an emergency, is nothing short of amazing. And best of all, they're having a blast doing it.

Speaking of having a blast, our summer picnic is free of charge to members and their families. Despite my comment above regarding fast scan TV it is good to see everyone at the picnic. It's a good opportunity to catch up and chat about the common interests that unite us as a club. This year for the first time we had a winter picnic and operating event in Ellison Park that was well attended and the food provided by our fellow members was remarkable. We ate, laughed and made a few contacts on HF.

We also need to be mindful of the fact that each month we offer free (yes, free) VE testing and we see about 8-12 new or upgraded licensees on the third Saturday of each month. The dedication of the VE team and the able coordination of that team make that process as easy as possible for individuals whether they are seeking their first ticket or upgrading an existing one. In addition to free VE testing we offer licensing classes throughout the academic year to foster interest in the hobby.

Have you thought about the RARA Hamfest lately? It is not only one of the best in the northeast, or perhaps the country, but admission is free for members. Do you remember when admission was \$6-8? Do you remember when the day you looked forward to all year was ruined by rain? No more. Not only is admission free but we are currently weatherproof. How many clubs can make these claims?

Yes, from the perspective of a few steps back I think RARA looks pretty good. I am proud to be a member of an organization that seriously and deliberately promotes the hobby and supports its members. I invite you to look at the club as I have and if you see anything that you think can be improved for the benefit of the members. Please let me know and I will do what I can to make it better.

Public Service

By Dave Snyder, KC2REO
Public Service Coordinator
kc2reo@gmail.com

CQ CQ! Volunteers are needed for upcoming public service events.

This year's public service events start early with the AIDS Red Ribbon Ride on Sunday, June 3rd at Genesee Valley Park. The Ride has been scaled back from previous years to a half day with only two routes and four rest stops. Hams are needed to staff the rest stops and ride in SAG vehicles provided by AIDS Care. Five volunteers are still needed for this event. If you've never done an event before, this is an easy one!

The 2012 Tour de Cure - our largest event of the season - will be held the following weekend on Sunday, June 10th at RIT. This full day event requires 30+ ham radio personnel to staff rest stops, SAG vehicles will be provided by the American Diabetes Association, and personal vehicles used to sweep each route. We're half way there, but need about 15 additional volunteers. This event is a lot of fun! If you can only do one event this year, sign up for the Tour de Cure!

To get more information and to sign up for these events and others, visit http://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm today!

RaRa VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH

We had eleven successful candidates for our April session; four Technician, six General and one Extra. Michael O'Neil has taken all tests with RARA. Congratulations to all.

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Class</u>
Nicholas	Cocca	KD2CBQ	T
Gregory	Hoople	KD2CBS	T
Michael	Hudak	KB3YQH	T
Weng-Kai	Sit	KD2CBU	T
Stephen	Baker	KB1VPI	G
James	Browne	KD2CBP	G
Thomas	Hitchcock	KD2CBR	G
James	Kennard	KD2CBT	G
Nicholas	Manuele	KD2BVT	G
Christopher	Meisenzahl	K9ROC	G
Michael	O'Neil	KD4SFA	E

There were no test sessions in May. The next session will be at the Hamfest on June 30th. Testing will begin at 9:30 AM in the Gordon Fieldhouse at RIT. The tests are free but if you're not a member of RARA you will have to purchase admission to the Hamfest (\$5.00). Hope to see you there.



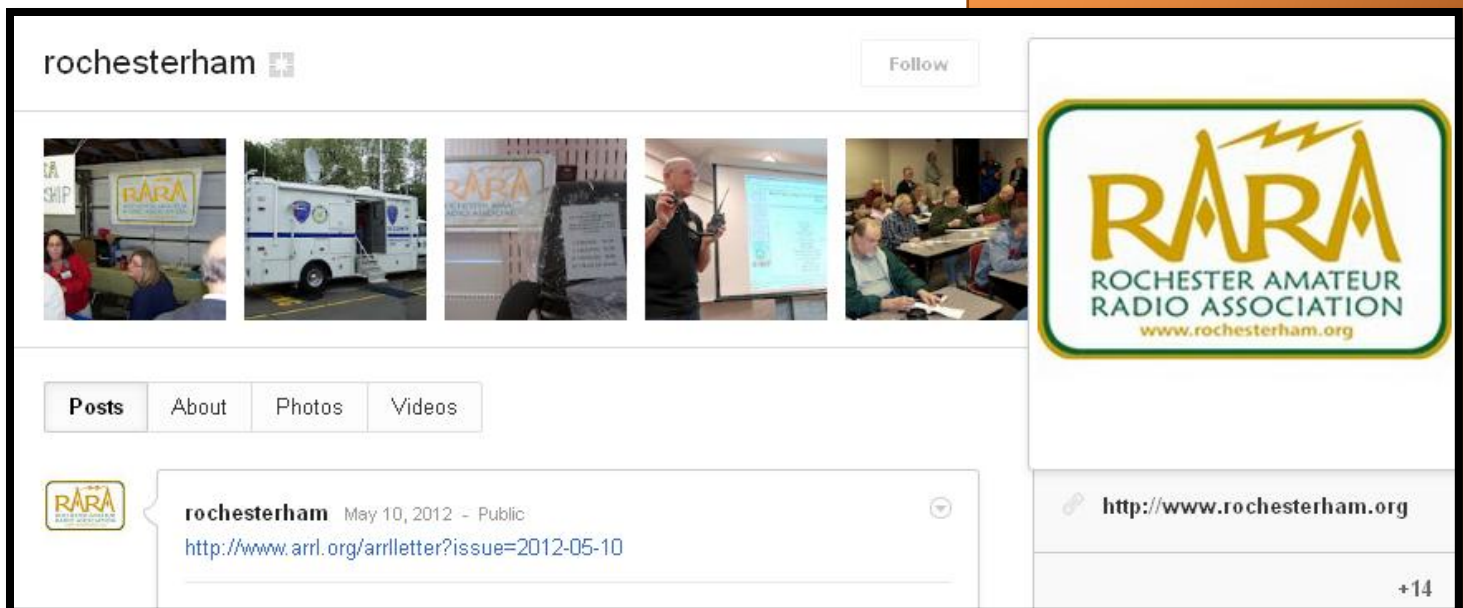
Ham Tech

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

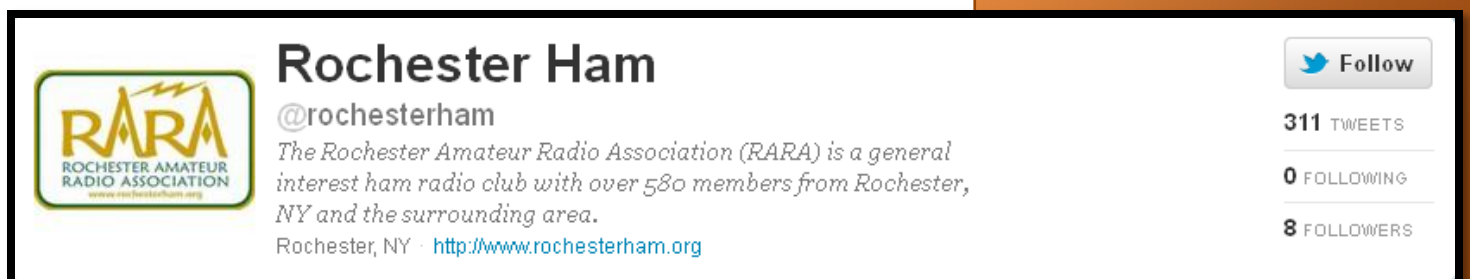
The RARA Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/rochesterham>) has been active for two years and is still growing. The page currently has 241 likes. You do not need a Facebook account to view the page and get the latest info on what is happening in the Western New York ham community. Facebook members can comment on a post and add their own post.



<http://gplus.to/rochesterham> - If you have grown tired of Facebook you can now get the same Facebook information on Google+. The RARA Google+ page is new but already has 14 fans and growing. Anyone can view the post but you will need a Google+ account to comment.



<https://twitter.com/rochesterham> - You can also follow RARA on Twitter. The same info that is available on Facebook and Google+ is also available as a tweet on Twitter.



Scanning Report: Good Manners

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

About a week ago while returning to my home village, I stopped in a pizza place for two slices of cheese pizza. My dual band handheld was on my belt with the speaker mic scanning the local law enforcement frequencies. Not too loud. Just right for me to hear.

As I was waiting for my pizza a police officer from that village came in the door and stood squarely in front of me asking what the radio was I was listening to. Further, he wanted to know why I had so many antennas on my vehicle parked directly outside the door. Plus he wanted to know what the bulge was under my shirt.

I explained that the radio was a two-way land mobile radio that contained licensed two way and ham frequencies, the antennas were ham and land mobile antennas and the bulge was a Motorola Minitor II fire pager.

He was clearly still not satisfied, so I took the radio off my belt so he could see it. The three pizza establishment employees and several patrons were watching closely. Perhaps they were watching the imminent capture of a terrorist! Had some sinister plot been averted? Their quick action may have saved many innocent lives. Would the media be alerted so they could tell the world of their heroics?

When the officer saw my name he recalled that he had attended my youth groups as a teen. The mood then changed from averting radio-assisted anarchy to reminiscing days at Bible study. Those holding their breath could now breathe freely and all fears of losing their humility to the media spotlight vanished in an instant.

But, what if he had *not* recognized my name. Was I violating any law? The answer simply is NO! Following are the laws that pertain to listening to police calls in New York State.

SECTION 397 NEW YORK STATE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAWS EQUIPPING MOTOR VEHICLES WITH RADIO RECEIVING SETS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING SIGNALS ON THE FREQUENCIES ALLOCATED FOR POLICE USE.

A person, not a police officer or peace officer, acting pursuant to his special duties, who equips a motor vehicle with a radio receiving set capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use or knowingly uses a motor vehicle so equipped or who in any way knowingly interferes with the transmission of radio messages by the police without having first secured a permit to do so from the person authorized to issue such a permit by the local governing body or board of the city, town or village in which such person resides, or where such person resides outside of a city, or village in a county having a county police department by the board of supervisors of such county, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both. Nothing [contained] in this section ... shall be construed to apply to any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license issued by the federal communications commission and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated by the federal communications commission to duly licensed radio amateurs.

RaRa Club LOGO Items



Don't feel left out- get your
RaRa logo items today!

<http://www.rochesterham.org/logo.htm>



CHAPTER 40 OF THE CONSOLIDATED LAWS OF NEW YORK PENAL LAW

Article 140. Burglary and related offenses

§140.40. Unlawful possession of radio devices.

As used in this section, the term "radio device" means any device capable of receiving a wireless voice transmission on any frequency allocated for police use, or any device capable of transmitting and receiving a wireless voice transmission.

A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a radio device when he possesses a radio device with the intent to use that device in the commission of robbery, burglary, larceny, gambling or a violation of any provision of article two hundred twenty of the penal law.

Unlawful possession of a radio device is a class B misdemeanor.

CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, v66 Updated 10-1-2002

PART II GENERAL ORDINANCES

Chapter 44, CONDUCT -- MISCELLANEOUS

§ 44-2. Radio receiving sets.

A. No person shall use a portable receiver for the purpose of receiving signals on police or fire frequencies.

B. No person shall equip any motor vehicle with a radio receiving set capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police or fire use or knowingly use a motor vehicle so equipped or knowingly in any way interfere with the reception or transmission of radio messages by the Police or Fire Department. [Amended 1-27-1970, Ord. 70-36]

C. The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to issue, regulate or revoke permits for the use of such receiving sets to persons or corporations engaged in official business. [Amended 1-27-1970, Ord. 70-36; 5-28-1974, Ord. 74-180]

D. The provisions of this section shall not apply to peace officers, authorized technicians of the Police and Fire Departments or persons holding a permit from the Chief of Police. [Amended 1-27-1970, Ord. 70-36; 5-2

FCC PR Docket No. 91-36

After many instances of local laws causing grief for ham radio operators the FCC issued PR Docket No. 91-36

PR Docket No. 91-36 does NOT apply to scanners. Only to ham radios that also receive police frequencies. And since there only a few ham radios that do not also receive these frequencies we need to be very grateful for this provision in the FCC law.

[I]n the age of the microprocessor and the integrated circuit [amateur] equipment is highly portable. It is common for amateur operators to carry hand-held transceivers capable of accessing many local repeaters in urban areas and also capable of reasonably good line-of-sight communication. It appears that the concept of fixed station operation no longer carries with it the same connotation it did previously. For this reason, we propose to delete current rules that relate to station operation away from the authorized fixed station location. [FN32]

As a consequence of these changes, the rules now expressly authorize amateur service operation "at points where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC," that is, at fixed and mobile locations throughout the United States. Furthermore, the Commission's Rules do not in any way prohibit an amateur service transceiver from having out-of-band reception capability. [FN33]



11. Against this background, we conclude that certain state and local laws, as described below, conflict with the Commission's regulatory scheme designed to promote a strong amateur radio service. Scanner laws that prohibit the use of transceivers that transmit and receive amateur frequencies because they also receive public safety, special emergency or other radio service frequencies frustrate most legitimate amateur service mobile operations through the threat of penalties such as fines and the confiscation of equipment. As noted by ARRL, virtually all modern amateur service equipment in use today can receive transmissions on the public safety and special emergency frequencies at issue, and the majority of amateur stations [FN34] are operated in a mobile fashion. Consequently, the mobile operations of the vast majority of amateurs are affected by such laws. In addition, the record statements by amateurs that the costs would be substantial to modify existing transceivers are unchallenged. The scanner laws, then, essentially place the amateur operator in the position of either foregoing mobile operations by simply avoiding all use of the equipment in vehicles or other locations specified in the laws, or risking fines, or equipment confiscation. This very significant limitation on amateurs operating rights runs counter to the express policies of both Congress and the Commission to encourage and support amateur service operations, including mobile operations, and impermissibly encroaches on federal authority over amateur operators. [FN35] It conflicts directly with the federal interest in amateur operators being able to transmit and receive on authorized amateur service frequencies. [FN36]

12. For these reasons, we find it necessary to preempt state and local laws that effectively preclude the possession in vehicles or elsewhere of amateur service transceivers by amateur operators merely on the basis that the transceivers are capable of reception on public safety, special emergency, or other radio service frequencies, the reception of which is not prohibited by federal law. [FN37] We find that, under current conditions and given the types of equipment available in the market today, such laws prevent amateur operators from using their mobile stations to the full extent permitted under the Commission's Rules and thus are in clear conflict with federal objectives of facilitating and promoting the Amateur Radio Service. We recognize the state law enforcement interest present here, and we do not suggest that state regulation in this area that reasonably attempts to accommodate amateur communications is preempted. [FN38] This decision does not pertain to scanner laws narrowly tailored to the use of such radios, for example, for criminal ends such as to assist flight from law enforcement personnel. We will not, however, suggest the precise language that must be contained in state and local laws. We do find that state and local laws must not restrict the possession of amateur transceivers simply because they are capable of reception of public safety, special emergency or other radio service frequencies, the reception of which is not prohibited by federal law, and that a state or local permit scheme will not save from preemption an otherwise objectionable law. [FN39] Finally, we note, as stated by APCO in comments filed previously in this proceeding, that any public safety agency that desires to protect the confidentiality of its communications can do so through the use of technology such as scrambling or encryption. [FN40]



V. CONCLUSION

13. We hold that state and local laws that preclude the possession in vehicles or elsewhere of amateur radio service transceivers by amateur operators merely on the basis that the transceivers are capable of the reception of public safety, special emergency, or other radio service frequencies, the reception of which is not prohibited by federal law, are inconsistent with the federal objectives of facilitating and promoting the amateur radio service and, more fundamentally, with the federal interest in amateur operators' being able to transmit and receive on authorized amateur service frequencies. We therefore hold that such state and local laws are preempted by federal law.

14. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the request for a declaratory ruling filed by the ARRL IS GRANTED to the extent indicated herein and in all other respects IS DENIED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

LINKS

New York State and Rochester City Scanner Laws

<http://rpac.rocus.org/?q=node/6>

Scroll down to the bottom for all three scanner laws

FCC Ham Scanner Ruling

http://www.afn.org/~afn09444/scanlaws/laws/scanner/pr_91-36-noi.html

<http://www.grove-ent.com/LL-FCCdocket.html>

My area scanner frequency list

<http://n2ops.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nYA0a3GGqAw%3d&tabid=38&mid=373>

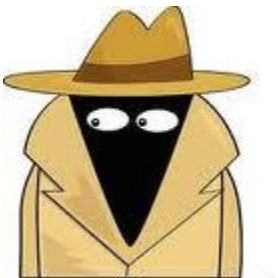
In Conclusion

I now take greater care to use an earphone or headset. Whenever we do have attention drawn to our hobby we must truly have good manners. Perhaps we might even have a future ham in our midst.

In the next *RARA Rag* I will review the transceiver that was on my belt that Friday night.

And to answer the question some of you may want to ask, but just can't bring yourself to; yes my pizza was still warm as I drove out of that village.

Until next time, 73 to thee.



RARA Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian

20 Years Ago, June, 1992

The June meeting left the familiar confines of the 40 & 8 Club for the rolling hills of Wadham's Lodge in Powder Mills Park for RaRa's annual picnic. Good family fun and lots of club provided food was enjoyed by all. The N2WK VHF Contest team announced a different approach to the June VHF contest. They will start on FM simplex and work as many locals as possible before moving to SSB/CW. They encouraged people to stop and visit their Gannett Hill contest QTH.

The RaRa license testing team announced that they passed their youngest candidate, 12 year old Cory Dwyer. Six large photos filled two pages showing the Rochester Hamfest with standing room only in the Dome and a flea market that went on as far as the eye could see. Lia Zwack, WA2NFY, wrote an interesting article on her just completed train trip, with other YL hams, to the YLRC (Young Ladies Radio Club) convention at West Point NY. With regret it was announced that Don Bramer, W2HZ, and Leon Lustyk, W2PZU, became Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a new Kenwood Boom Mic from Jim, WB2WWV. Patrick Moyer, N2AIW, Attorney & Counselor-at-law, remained a long time commercial advertiser

40 Years Ago, June, 1972

As it was 20 years ago, this month's RaRa gathering was the annual picnic at Power Mills Park. This time there was entertainment planned by the YL side: Florence Kirkbright WB2QXB, Claire Young, XYL of WA2UGE, Joyce Holdsworth, XYL of WA2EKR and Onalee Gessin, XYL of WA2ZNC.

A lengthy article detailing the great success of the 1972 hamfest was published. Highlighted were the honored guests: ARRL President Harry Dannals W2TUK, and ARRL Directors Noel Eaton VE3CJ, Harry McConaghy W3SW, Jesse Beiberman W3KT and Stan Zak K2SJO. The Fair Grounds attendance was 2500. The Amateur of the Year award went to the very popular Linc Cundall, W2QY, and the Technical Merit Award went to Mel Wilson, W2BOC. As this was the 39th annual hamfest, a very special greeting was read to those gathered at the Banquet by someone famous for being stuck at the age of 39. The letter, from comedian Jack Benny, was arranged for by Eddie Dunn W2ECH.

Joe Hood, K2YAH, wrote to report on one of Rochester's finest public Service events, the 1972 Hike for Hope. Along with the normal 2-meter FM event coordinating work, there was an amazing link from 2 meters to 15 meters SSB down to the hospital ship Hope located in Natal, Brazil, via Gene Fuller W2FZJ. Congressman Horton as well as marchers could actually speak to the ship personnel. Further, discovering that the ship had slow scan television capability Dave Halidy, WB2ZEA, quickly set up to send and receive event SSTV pictures to and from the ship. It was also the first use of the new RaRa communications van, K2JD. The next day Joe, K2YAH and Dave, WB2ZEA were interviewed on the Eddie Meath TV show in a real public service news event. (Nice going RaRa, well done – Ed) From the Want Ads you could obtain a Gibson C-1 guitar in trade for a 2-meter FM set from David, WB2HTH. (I bet he wants the guitar back now \$\$\$) Rochester Radio Supply at 140 West Main, was a long term commercial advertiser.

Questions,
Comments?
Call the

RaRa Hotline
(585)
210-8910
24 Hours a Day



Editor's Note: Free press is available for your club! We welcome brief updates and meeting notices from all area ham clubs. Just send your input to editor@rochesterham.org. When preparing your article, please remember to keep it short, and assume that readers know nothing about your club. The article should be focused toward non-members, and not your own current members... that's what your own newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks. 73, -Kevin

Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. All ARES / RACES members and non-member Amateur Radio Operators are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, June 28, 2012, at 7:00 PM.** Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz. (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-meter handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2012.

REMINDER: We do not meet during the months of July and August. See you on September 27, 2012.

RRRA News

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

Well, summer is just about here, and RRRA is in the second phase of a Hamfest for the end of summer. Keep informed of our progress by listening to the 146.880 RRRA repeater, and if you would like to help out on the committee, please contact me.

I am getting ready to go to Dayton this week as I write this article. I am looking forward to it as I have not been in a number of years. I will be a passenger in a Mini-Van with 4 other guys and part of the Caravan of Stars in the WB2KAO mobile. I have plans to keep us all occupied with HF, Internet access for computers and also will attempt to stream some video from the trip live. (Won't that be fun?) My friend from high school, Mike KA1UDV is flying up to Dayton from Boynton Beach Florida. I will be meeting up with him at the airport and he will join the rest of us. I am now starting to enjoy the benefits of retirement. This trip should be loads of fun.

The Rochester Hamfest will be upon us shortly after we get back. Look for me and other officers at the RRRA booth. We will have an info session about the 88 repeater and its many functions as well as the ability to renew your membership at a special Hamfest price. Your membership is what helps keeps us going and the K2RRRA repeater alive and well. Also at the booth, we will have Power Pole Connectors available of 15, 30 and 45 amps and the ability to place these on your radio power cords to standardize your power distribution. See my additional article for details or contact me via contact number or email at our Website www.k2rra.us.



This is also election time for RRRA. It is time to become involved in the club. We will be looking for additional candidates to hold office for VP, Secretary and Treasurer. Elections will be held at the June meeting. At the May meeting, I will not be present and our VP will run the meeting. Bob Shewell, N2HJD will have something to present at that time. Refreshments will be served (Mary's homemade cookies, Mmmm)

See you all at the Hamfest and at our June 2012 meeting at the Pittsford Town Hall on June 15, 2012 for elections.

RRRA: Power Pole Service at Hamfest

On behalf of RRRA, Brad Allen, KB2CHY will be providing attachment of Anderson Power Pole (PP) connectors to your radio cables. This is the standard for power distribution used by emergency Amateur groups such as ARES and RACES. It is wise to have common connectors so any radio can be used at any time with the same power connectors. I will have 15, 30 and 45-amp connectors with red/black housings and will crimp/solder the connectors for you on site.

Some suggested ways of making use of these connectors to standardize power distribution in your shack will be supplied. Some uses I have done is Cigarette plug/socket power to PP, Molex power to PP, a fuse cable with PP on both ends, 6-pin Molex to PP, open ends to PP, and many other uses. With the use of a fused Power Pole Distribution Panel, this will help make your radios totally portable. I will also guarantee my work and the connector for one year. If it fails or the connection fails for any reasonable reason, I will replace the connector only and installation for free at anytime. This is good at next year's Hamfest or at any RRRA or RARA meeting I attend during the year.

If you become a NEW member of RRRA at the Rochester Hamfest, one pair of connectors will be provided for free on your radio cable. Stop by and see us at the RRRA booth/table. All donations minus cost of connectors will go to RRRA.

MC Full-Scale Exercise

By Jon Dickason, N2JAC

On May 10th, Monroe County hosted a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency exercise to test command and control, interoperable communications, and resource coordination. The press called it an anti-terrorism exercise. Because our tax dollars were being spent on this drill, the contractors hired to develop it had to make it sound very expensive, so it was called: Northern Border Marine Interdiction Operation (MIO) Full-Scale Exercise (FSE). Some of the press called it a terror exercise.



So many groups were in the planning meeting I might not remember them all: FBI, Dept. of Homeland Security, NY State Police, RCMP, US and Canadian Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), NY Navy Militia, DEC, MC Sheriff, US and Canadian Coast Guard, RPD, MC radio center, MC GIS (mapping), and most important of all (to us), MC ARES/RACES.

The exercise simulated a terrorist group coming by boat into Lake Ontario with explosives ready to do bad things. Each step of the exercise was scripted in a document called the MSEL, master scenario events list. The script read like an episode of 24, with Jack Bauer searching for the boat, finding the bad guys, and taking them out, complete with names, family history, known associates in the US, etc.. The exercise coordinators 'injected' events into the scenario as it played out, passing out the script events according to its timeline.

Our original plan was to provide ATV video from one of the boats, back to the command post. Fred, WO2P, and Judy, N2KXS, in their testing, were confident they could send video to the coast guard staging area, but were having trouble getting it from there back to the 111 Westfall repeater. We started to plan for a hybrid ATV-Internet solution, but Fred was called out of town during the exercise, so for plan B we offered to provide APRS coverage instead, and Chris Crane, the county's coordinator for this exercise, is familiar with our capabilities to do that. The county radio team would provide a voice communications solution so all the different agencies could communicate with each other. It was decided to have the command post at the airport's emergency operations center (AEOC), because they have a turnkey facility. Staging would be at the Rochester Coast Guard station.

The plan called for 12 to 15 boats, but due to weather we only had five tagging. The Coast Guard's big boat (I'm sure that's its official name) had engine problems the day before the exercise. They thought they had it fixed, but it was not up to spec so it was out of the exercise, to the dismay of Chris, N2CDO, who was all prepared to ride on it and run APRS on his cell phone. Kevin, KC2PKO, and Steve, KC2YTC, got to ride on two NY Navy Militia boats with APRS trackers. Kevin's boat patrolled west around Long Pond, and Steve's boat patrolled south up the river and was shown on several TV news reports.

Not knowing how many boats we'd get, or how many would allow us on them, I had to plan for the best and worst case, and it came out somewhere in the middle. We tracked all five boats including the two with our guys riding on them. We had a few more trackers and hams we could have deployed, but we were busy at staging. Ross, KC2LOC, brought his rugged go-kit HF/VHF/UHF radio with his netbook to run uiview for APRS. Walt, N2ZVP, brought a portable digipeater ready to go on a boat, but he deployed it at staging to digi the boats in the harbor. He found a nice metal box to put his antenna tripod on until he was informed that it contained live ammo, so he quickly moved his antenna! Jim, W2COP, provided three small trackers from RIT's K2GXT club. They are 10 watt all-in-one trackers in waterproof pelican cases, and KC2YTC also brought his. WO2P's 30-watt tracker could have been used as an anchor if needed. N2CDO sent video from his cell phone to the command post and also provided us with Internet to run aprs.fi, a web APRS viewer. Jim, N2IXD, was ready to go mobile to the airport or wherever he was needed.



Jim Herbst, KC2KNJ, from Radio Center, brought a trailer for us with an antenna and one of our radios from the EOC. It didn't rain that day, but the lake breeze was a little chilly, so we were glad to have a place to stay warm. One of the exercise coordinators, and the safety officer also made our station their base. We had several visits from evaluators and other participants who came to see our APRS operation. Even though we weren't hearing the voice comms, we could see the Sheriff's Marine Unit 1 boat and CBP's M115 boat searching, converge and then return together, so we knew they had caught the bad guys. We also saw an APRS plane on our maps and W2COP noticed it was an RIT student running their thermal imaging experiment. Jim exchanged messages with the plane and we watched it circle the area several times. It turns out that it was dispatched for the exercise, but we didn't know it at the time.

Ralph, KC2BDZ and Lee, WB2JOR, were at the airport EOC running net control for us. The plan was to have them run uiview to put up on the big screen, but the day before, Justin from the county's GIS team was able to link the aprs.fi data in to a beta version of his GIS software to display on the screen. It's not integrated into the county's web based software yet, and it doesn't display things as nicely as uiview, but it got the job done and impressed the participants at command post. The airport's EOC is a great Faraday cage, so Ralph and Lee had to operate in a rare windowed room they found.

Net control was also there to coordinate our voice comms in case we had many guys out on boats, and we planned to use Wayne County's ARES/RACES repeater in Sodus in case we traveled that far east, but we were able to stay on N2MPE, 146.61. Peter, W2SKY and Mike, KE2LU worked the week before to improve W2XRX's digi in Ontario, but since the boats didn't get past Webster, they digi'd through N2ZVP in Webster and AC2EV in Greece for the western boats.

I think we all enjoyed ourselves that day, and we learned a lot and had some suggestions at the after-incident discussion. As usual, not everyone had heard of APRS or knew what we could do with it, and they were certainly interested once they saw its capabilities. Many of these boats have expensive trackers on them, paid for with our tax dollars, but they are encrypted and the boat operators can't change their settings. Apparently only the pentagon can see where they are. I assumed in a multi-agency event that command would want to see where all these resources were, and that's exactly what we hams were able to provide. All the hams were professional and did an outstanding job, as always.

If you want to work another exciting ham event, check out STPR, a road rally on the forest roads of Wellsboro PA. Hams can get to areas closed to spectators, and sometimes even ride in rally cars to prepare the course and check for safety issues (www.STPR.org). And of course you're always welcome at ARES/RACES meetings. Check out www.monroecountyemcomm.org.



June 2nd Balloon Launch by PSARC

Steve Jordan, KD1OM,
President PSARC

On June 2nd at about 0830 EDT, The PSARC will be launching a high altitude balloon from Hermon, Maine. One of the payloads will be a crossband repeater using 147.570 MHz as the uplink and 446.100 MHz as the downlink. Coverage for this VHF/UHF repeater should be more than 450 miles. Stations as far away as western New York, Long Island, all of New England, and Maritime Canada should be able to work it. Please join us and help us set a distance record for this repeater. We will be awarding a certificate for the station farthest away to make contact through the repeater. You can see the latest information about the launch at <http://www.n1me.org/Hamfest.php> and at <http://eece.maine.edu/umhab/> which will be updated shortly before the launch.

New 6-Meter Repeater!

By Kevin Tubbs, KD2DSL

The new KD2SL six meter repeater is on the air in Syracuse; Input 52.67 MHz, Output 53.67 MHz, and 103.5 Hz PL tone. The unique thing about the repeater is the antenna, a 6-bay *horizontally polarized* batwing, previously used by WSTM-TV 3, aalog. Complete information on the repeater can be found at the website: <http://www.kd2sl.com>.

GVARC News

This month we are in our planning stages for Field Day next month and RARA's Hamfest.

For Field Day we hope to again this year set up at Perry Village Park. We have set up there the past two years and it has been a great time with many contacts. This is also the day of our Family Picnic. This year we will be having a fireman's style chicken BBQ.

We are planning on having an informational booth on our club at the RARA Hamfest. We are always looking for new members. We will be having a membership drive to increase our membership. We will be having informational booths at the Geneseo Rotary Fest, The Mount Morris Italian Fest, Autumn in the Village in Livonia, and hopefully the Corn Fest in Avon. Stop by and Say Hi!

We are always looking for program for our meetings. If you have a topic you'd like to speak on related to Amateur Radio, contact me, Billy Boyd, President, N3DSP at n3dsp@lafireline.net

Orleans County Hamfest: August 11th

By Terry Cook, KC2JKU

The Orleans County Amateur Radio Club will hold their hamfest on Saturday, August 11th, 2012 at the Ridgeway Fire Hall, 11392 Ridge Road, Medina, NY. Gates open at 6 AM for vendors; 8 AM for the public. Any questions may be directed to me at kc2jku@ocarc.us, or by phone at 585-589-6362. Talk-in will be on the 145.270 repeater. To learn more about the OCARC, please visit the club's website at www.ocarc.us.

WANTED: Heath HG-10B VFO

Heath HG-10B VFO wanted, in good working order, to match with HW-16 Transceiver. Please contact Al Pogue, KA2BVC (Tel. 585-638-5685)



The Amateur's Code

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community

Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website (www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Online membership directory
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, and mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RaRa Hotline (585) 210-8910

Website: www.rochesterham.org

OFFICERS:

President: Frank Schramm, WB2PYD 270-1045
wb2pyd@arri.net
Vice-President: Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC 889-9008
wb2ghc@arri.net
Secretary: Len Crellin, KC2PCD 267-9805
kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com
Treasurer: Ken Hall, W2KRH 289-3801
ken@w2krh.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD 426-7956
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k2si@arri.net
Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY 381-6553
wb2sxy@arri.net
Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC 247-8323
kc2loc@arri.net
Gary Skuse, KA1NJL 223-1511
ka1njl@arri.net

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Awards / Raffle Administrators Jay Hamill, KC2TCM
..... Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK
Club Historian Ed Gable, K2MP
Club Station Trustee Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
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RaRa RAG Managing Editor Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
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RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month
from September through May. Come join us at:

Henrietta Fire Company No.1
3129 East Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, NY 14467

[Get Directions](#)

Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

Lynn Bisha, W2BSN lbisha@rochester.rr.com

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Rich Hamill, KC2TNJ tinker@rochester.rr.com

Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

Jim Sutton, N2OPS jim@otrym.org

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn

Bill Boyd, N3DSP N3DSP@lafireline.net

Monroe County ARES

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD n2ixd@arri.net

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa)

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD wb2pyd@arri.net

Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Paul Kolacki, K2FX usafpilot@rochester.rr.com

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Brad Allen, KB2CHY kb2chy@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

John Stevens, WB2BYP wb2byp@arri.net

Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Steve Benton, WB2VMR sbenton2@rochester.rr.com

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net

July Rag Deadline
June 15, 2012

